Sale of PDS Kerosene in Black Market

†155. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a major portion of Kerosene of Public Distribution System is sold in black market; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to curb such black marketing of Kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Government of India and the State Governments while the Central Government is responsible for procuring and making available to the States the PDS commodities, the distribution of commodities including kerosene within the State and its monitoring is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. To prevent diversion of kerosene the Government has introduced blue dyeing of kerosene distributed under PDS and furfural doping of kerosene at depots / terminals so that the same is not used for adulteration.

Supply of Wheat and Rice to Orissa

156. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken to increase the supply of food grains particularly rice and wheat, to Orissa to meet the requirements after the super cyclone/floods in the State; and

(b) what was the demand and supply position of aforesaid commodities during the last two years?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) In addition to regular monthly allotment of rice and wheat being given to Orissa under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Central Government has made special allocation of 2,95,038 lakh tonnes of rice and 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Government of Orissa at Central Issue Prices applicable for Below Poverty Line (BPL) population for distribution to the cyclone affected families of 14 affected districts of the State. Out of 2,95,038 tonnes of rice, 2000 tonnes of rice has been allocated to the State Governments for use by Non-Government Organisations of repute and Central Public Sector Undertakings to run community kitchens in Orissa for cyclone affected people.

(b) Under TPDS, implemented from 1.6.1997, the allocation of foodgrains to the States/UTs is not demand based. The allocation for population below poverty line (BPL) is made to ensure 10 kg of foodgrains per BPL family per month at specially subsidised prices. The allocation for above poverty line (APL) population has been fixed equal to the last 10 years' average annual lifting at the time of implementing TPDS minus the BPL allocation in respect of each State/U.T.

The quantity of rice and wheat allotted to Orissa during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under:—

(In '000 tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat
1997-98	715.400	299.000
1998-99	656.980	435.000